## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 OMB-01 EUR-12 ARA-06 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /096 W

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R 051600Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6029 INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS AMEMBASSY RABAT

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 0565

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, EFIN, AG

SUBJECT: DAVID ROCKEFELLER VISITS ALGERIA

- 1. DAVID ROCKEFELLER ARRIVED ALGIERS FROM RABAT 1 MARCH AS CASTRO WAS LEAVING AND LEFT FOR TUNIS 2 MARCH. WHILE HERE HE MET WITH MINFIN SECGEN AOUFI, MININD & ENERGY ABDESSELAM, AND PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE.
- 2. AT MEETING AND DINNER WITH AOUFI ROCKEFELLER REPORTED INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CIRCLES' CONCERN ABOUT MOUNTING ALGERIAN DEBT, STATED THAT FOR TIME BEING CHASE PREPARED EXTEND ONLY SHORT-TERM EXPORT CREDITS, AND URGED THAT GOA FOCUS ON ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES AND ON REINING IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PACE. AOUFI REFUSED ACCEPT ANALYSIS, ARGUING IN PART THAT US BANKS WILL HAVE TO LEND TO ALGERIA SINCE THEY HAVE \$10 BILLION IN AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR WHICH THEY MUST FIND OUTLET. ROCKEFELLER TRIED TO DISABUSE HIM BY POINTING OUT THAT BANKS PAY FOR THESE FUNDS AND WOULD NOT TAKE THEM IN IF THERE WERE NO GOOD OUTLETS AND THAT CHASE DID NOT SUFFER FROM LACK OF APPLICANTS FOR ITS MONEY. CONFIDENTIAL

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ROCKEFELLER'S AGUMENT FELL ON DEAF EARS AND HE AND AOUFI AGREED TO DISAGREE ON ALGERIA'S FINANCIAL PROSPECTS.

3. FROM ABDESSELAM ROCKEFELLER HEARD CONFIDENT ASSESSMENT OF ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS.

- 4. ROCKEFELLER'S SUMMARY OF HIS ONE AND HALF HOUR SESSION WITH BOUMEDIENE INDICATED HE RECEIVED STANDARD PRESIDENTIAL LINE FOR AMERICAN VISITORS, WITH BOUMEDIENE STRESSING NEED FOR FPC ACTION ON LNG CONTRACTS, PLEADING FOR USG TO WORK WITH INDEPENDENT NATIONALIST STATES LIKE ALGERIA AND NOT WITH LACKEY REGIMES, URGING THAT G-8 COME FORTH WITH NEW IDEAS TO ASSURE PROGRESS ON NIEO AT CIEC, EMPHASIZING THAT NO SPECIAL PROBLEMS EXIST IN US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT USG KEEP ITS "NEUTRALITY" AND "OBJECTIVITY" ON SAHARA, AND REQUESTING EASIER ACCESS TO EXIM FINANCING.
- 5. IN ADDITION, THREE POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST AROSE DURING BOUMEDIENE TALK. SPECIFICALLY BOUMEDIENE'S:
- A. STRESS ON ALGERIAN INDEPENDENCE FROM SOVIETS: "WE PAY CASH DOWN TO LAST PENNY" FOR ALL SOVIET ARMS ALGERIA RECEIVES;
- B. DISCOURSE ON CASTRO'S CUBA BEING INDEPENDENT NATIONALIST STATE FORCED TO SOVIET SIDE AGAINST ITS WILL BY USG POLICY;
- C. REMINISCENCE ABOUT LUNCH WITH NIXON FOLLOWING UN APPEARANCE IN 1974 AND INDICATION HE "WOULD BE HAPPY" AND "HAVE NO OBJECTION" TO REPEAT PERFORMANCE WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION.
- 6 COMMENT: AOUFI AND ABDESSELAM PERFORMANCE INDICATE ALGERIA MAINTAINING CHIN-UP PUBLIC ATTITUDE IN FACE OF REPEATED BANKERS' CAUTIONS ABOUT UPCOMING FINANCIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SQUEEZE.

7. BOUMEDIENE'S WARM EMBRACE OF CASTRO IN MORNING AND CORDIAL HOUR AND HALF WITH ROCKEFELLER IN EVENING OF SAME DAY CAPTURES IN MICROCOSM ALGERIAN COMBINATION OF POLITICAL RABBLE ROUSING AND ECONOMIC PRAGMATISM.

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